MDHHS Tuberculosis Unit: Guidelines for Local Health Department Use of Incentives and Enablers for Tuberculosis Case Management

Overview of Incentives & Enablers	2
Eligibility	4
Housing	6
Roles & Tracking	7
Reimbursement Deadlines	8
How to Request Incentives & Enablers	9
Form A: All Gift Cards and Any Reimbursement Request Less Than \$200	9
Form B: Reimbursement Requests Estimated to Cost More Than \$200	10
Example Form A: Any Gift Card Amount or Reimbursement Less Than \$200	11
Example Form B: Reimbursements Estimated to Cost More Than \$200	13
Creating Your Own Guidelines	15
Abbreviations	17
Glossary	17
References	18

Overview of Incentives & Fnablers

Adhering to lengthy TB therapy can be very challenging. It is critical that persons with TB take their medications correctly, without skipping or taking partial doses. Responsibility for successful treatment is assigned to the health-care provider, not the patient.

In addition to using Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) to enhance treatment adherence, incentives and enablers (IEs) can be a very effective part of a patient-centered approach to TB case management. The key to a successful DOT program is the use of information on poor adherence, side effects, and adverse reactions to promptly identify and respond to potential barriers to adherence, missed doses, and potential adverse treatment effects.

- Incentives are "small rewards" that encourage patients to complete TB treatment by motivating them with something they want or need.
- **Enablers** help to patients overcome barriers to completing their TB treatment. Examples of incentives and enablers are on the back of this document

When to Use IEs

As a health care professional, you can make a difference by understanding how to use incentives effectively and conveying a positive, caring attitude. Use incentives to motivate or reward, not coerce. Using IEs should not necessarily be routine or automatic for all TB patients. IEs should be chosen according to the patient's needs.

Using Incentives

Make a verbal or written agreement early in the relationship. Be clear that if the patient keeps all DOT appointments (or whatever you agree upon), they will receive the agreed-upon incentive. If the patient does not keep their end of the agreement, withhold the incentive. Kindly but firmly explain why the incentive is not being given and what they need to do to start receiving it again. Incentives are usually used on an ongoing basis-weekly, monthly, or when key milestones are reached.

Using Enablers

Identify barriers that interfere with the patient's ability to adhere to the treatment plan and provide something that will help overcome that specific barrier. Examples of instances when you might choose to use an enabler include inadequate transportation for clinic and DOT appointments, poor appetite or malnourishment, uninsured or underinsured, or a child who dislikes the taste of medication.

Missed DOT Doses

If a DOT dose is missed, the patient should be contacted as soon as possible. A missed dose should be an opportunity to identify barriers to adherence and work with the patient to find ways to successful completion of treatment.

Examples of IEs

Incentives	Enablers
Food assistance (food stamps, snacks, meals, fast food vouchers, and restaurant or grocery coupons)	Transportation vouchers (bus passes or taxi vouchers)
Assistance in finding or providing housing	Nutritional supplements to increase weight gain or foods to help take with medicine
Clothing or other personal products	Convenient clinic hours and locations
Books, toys, stickers, games	Clinic personnel who speak the languages of the populations served
Stipends	Reminder systems and follow-up of missed appointments
Patient contracts, which can involve providing information about close contacts, going to medical appointments, or maintain home isolation	Social service assistance (referrals for substance abuse treatment and counseling, help with applying for medical assistance, or finding housing)
	Outreach workers (bilingual and/or bicultural that can provide DOT, follow-up on missed appointments, monthly monitoring, transportation, sputum collection, social service assistance, and educational reinforcement)
	Integration of care for TB with care for other conditions (diabetes, HIV, hepatitis)
	Financial assistance for those out of work or unable to work (groceries, medical supplies, co-pays, rent, car insurance, etc.)
	Cost of care to local public health (mileage for DOT)

Eligibility

Persons Eligible to Receive IEs

- 1. Persons with pulmonary and/or extrapulmonary active TB disease.
- 2. Persons with latent TB infection (LTBI) receiving treatment.
- 3. Children under the age of 18 reliant on persons with active TB disease.
- 4. Close contacts to a case of active TB disease who are diagnosed with LTBI and are on treatment or window prophylaxis.
- 5. Special situations that are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

IEs Eligible for Request

- 1. Gift cards to:
 - i. Purchase nutritional supplements or groceries for persons with active TB disease, and in need of food assistance.
 - ii. Purchase nutritional supplements or groceries for children under the age of 18 living reliant on persons with active TB disease.
 - iii. Encourage compliance with contact investigations, evaluation, and treatment of LTBI.
 - iv. Purchase gas for transportation to and from clinic appointments and DOT meetings, if occurring away from home.
 - v. Healthcare services such as x-rays, over the counter drugs, co-pays for prescription drugs for the treatment of TB disease or LTBI. Gift cards should not be used to cover the full cost of prescription drugs for the treatment of TB disease or LTBI that were purchased without insurance.
- 2. Reimbursements for the purchase of:
 - i. Clothes, shoes, hygienic products, and toiletries.
 - ii. Gas, bus passes/tokens, or taxi services for transportation to and from clinic appointments and DOT meetings, if occurring away from home.
 - iii. Healthcare services such as x-rays, over the counter drugs, co-pays for prescription drugs for the treatment of TB disease or LTBI. Reimbursements will not be made to cover the cost of prescription drugs for the treatment of active TB or LTBI that were purchased without insurance.
 - iv. Housing, utilities, or other costs necessary to assure the person has a stable and safe living environment. Please see the Housing section in this document for more information.

Reimbursement requests *estimated* to be more than \$200 must be pre-approved by MDHHS (Form B) <u>before</u> expenses are incurred by the LHD. We <u>cannot guarantee</u> items that cost more than \$200 will be reimbursed without prior approval by MDHHS.

IEs Ineligible for Request

- 1. Gift cards to purchase, or reimbursements for the purchase of:
 - i. Cigarettes
 - ii. Cash
 - iii. Alcohol
 - iv. Gambling materials
 - v. Re-fillable credit cards
 - vi. Pay full price for prescription drugs. Gift cards can be used to pay co-pays for prescription drugs to treat TB disease or LTBI (see previous section).

Recommended Companies Eligible for Gift Card Purchase

Company			Recommende	d Use	
Name	Food	Gas	Personal/ Hygiene Items	Clothing	Medications*
Kroger	Χ	Χ	X		Χ
Meijer	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Walmart	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Target	Χ		Χ	Χ	Χ
McDonald's	Χ				
Speedway		Χ			
Citgo		Χ			
Marathon		Χ			
CVS			Χ		Χ
Rite Aid			Χ		Χ

^{*}Full price prescription medications for treatment of TB disease or LTBI are ineligible for use. MDHHS will allow the use of gift cards to pay co-pays for anti-TB prescription medications.

Notes:

- The items and companies listed companies are not exclusive, so if you need something that is not listed above, please request it on the appropriate IE request form.
- It is the responsibility of the LHD to educate the person on what items are acceptable for purchase. Please see the <u>Creating Your Own Guidelines</u> section for more information to help guide your program.
- Factors that are considered when granting requests are the availability of funds and amount requested.
- More examples of items that are typically used for IEs can be found on page 43 of the <u>CDC's</u> Self Study Module 6.

Housing

Funding for housing and accommodations is available from MDHHS for specific instances and special situations.

Persons Eligible to Receive Housing Assistance

- 1. Persons with active TB disease including pulmonary and/or extrapulmonary TB;
- 2. Persons either homeless prior to starting their TB treatment or at risk of becoming homeless throughout the course of TB treatment.

Housing and Medical Management Standards

- 1. When selecting outpatient housing, the following items should be available to provide suitable, comfortable and safe accommodations:
 - a. The venue should have a telephone for local calls, fire escape and fire alarm, and locks on all doors and windows;
 - b. Appropriate and effective temperature control;
 - c. Cooking space or kitchenette to encourage cooking, microwaves, refrigerator with freezer holding appropriate food storage temperature, sink, and oven;
 - d. Close access to public transportation to encourage shopping for food and personal hygiene items (if not under isolation);
 - e. Access to adequate to laundry facilities;
 - f. Regular cleaning of the room (if in a hotel or motel);
 - g. The unit should be inspected for pests and other barriers which could impede TB treatment, including bed bugs.
- 2. The person must receive medications via DOT. Mechanisms must be established to ensure that the person complies with DOT and infection control instructions.

Housing Types

- 1. When selecting housing, the following recommendations should be considered:
 - a. Hotels and motels are acceptable forms of housing, especially for short-term and emergency housing. Units with kitchenettes and laundry facilities on site are preferred.
 - b. Hotel/motel prices should be negotiated to the state rate (\$85/night) when possible.
 - c. Apartments, houses, or rooms for rent are preferred.

Roles & Tracking

MDHHS Tuberculosis Control Unit

- 1. MDHHS does not require tracking information from the LHD on how gift card IEs are used.
- 2. The TB Public Health Consultant (MDHHS) is authorized to make the initial review of all IE requests.
 - a. All Gift Cards (regardless of total sum) and Any Reimbursement Requests Less Than \$200:
 - i. MDHHS TB Unit and Section Managers must sign and approve the request before disbursement of the funds.
 - b. Reimbursement Requests Estimated to be More Than \$200:
 - i. MDHHS TB Unit Manager must approve of the request and sign **Form B Section III** before purchases can be made by the LHD.
 - ii. Once **Section IV** on **Form B** is signed and returned to the TB Public Health Consultant with proof of purchase, the MDHHS TB Unit and Section Managers must sign and approve the request before disbursement of funds.

Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)

- 1. MPHI does not require tracking information from LHDs or MDHHS on how gift card IEs are used.
- 2. The Financial Analyst at MPHI is authorized to receive redacted IE requests and review for required approval signatures.
- 3. If the required approval signatures are present, the Financial Analyst will fill the requested item(s) and disburse to the LHD.

Local Health Departments (LHDs)

- 1. LHDs in the state of Michigan are authorized to request IEs from MDHHS for TB case management, regardless of funding LHDs receive from MDHHS or the CDC.
- 2. If desired, LHDs may track the spending of their IE gift cards, however this information is not required by MDHHS nor MPHI.
- 3. It is suggested that LHDs create their own guidelines for use of IEs with their TB patients. See the Creating Your Own Guidelines section in this document for more information.

Trackina

- 1. Neither MDHHS nor MPHI require documentation of how gift cards are used.
 - a. It is suggested that LHDs create their own guidelines for use of IEs with their TB patients. See the Creating Your Own Guidelines section in this document for more information.
- 2. If requesting reimbursements, the LHD must provide an acceptable proof of purchase.
 - a. Approved proofs of purchase include checks written by the LHD, invoices, and receipts with date of purchase, total amount paid (including tax), and payee name.
- 3. LHDs must notify both the MPHI financial analyst and the MDHHS TB Public Health Consultant via email when gift cards and reimbursement checks are received. See the How to Request Incentives & Enablers section of this document for more information.

Reimbursement Deadlines

There are two deadlines for submitting reimbursements, depending on the time of year the purchase was made.

- 1. Purchases made October 1st December 31st: Submit to MDHHS no later than January 31st
 - o For example, if a purchase was made on 11/15/2020, it needs to be submitted to MDHHS for reimbursement no later than 1/31/2021. Any time after January 31st is considered late and you will not be reimbursed for this purchase.
- 2. Purchases made January 1st September 30th: Submit to MDHHS no later than October 31st
 - o For example, if a purchase was made on 8/20/2020, it needs to be submitted to MDHHS for reimbursement no later than 10/31/2020. Any time after October 31st is considered late and you will not be reimbursed for this purchase.

A good rule of thumb is to submit your reimbursement requests as soon as possible.

How to Request Incentives & Enablers

Use either **Form A** or **Form B** to request your IEs (depending on the nature of your request). You can either print and handwrite or use the fillable PDF and email the form. If you chose to email the form, please do not include PHI such as name and date of birth. Initials and case numbers (MDSS# or RVCT#) are acceptable.

Form A: All Gift Cards and Any Reimbursement Request Less Than \$200

- 1. Use **Form A** to request gift cards (any amount) or reimbursements that cost less than \$200. Please see the next section if you foresee a <u>reimbursement</u> that will cost more than \$200. The blank form can be found <u>on the MDHHS website</u>, and an example of a completed form can be found here in this document.
- 2. Complete **Sections I-II** of **Form A** and fax or email to MDHHS. The proof of purchase must be attached if requesting reimbursement:

Attention: TB Public Health Consultant

Email:

Fax Number: 517-335-8263

If you chose to email, please **DO NOT** put identifying information on the form!

Initials or MDSS ID are fine to use

- 3. Once Form A is received the TB Public Health Consultant will:
 - a. Notify the LHD the request was received;
 - b. Obtain approval signature from the MDHHS TB unit manager;
 - i. If the request is not approved, the TB Public Health Consultant will contact you with a detailed explanation and suggestions for other available options. See the Eligibility section of this document for more information.
 - c. Send the request to the Financial Analyst at MPHI for processing;
 - d. Notify the LHD of approval and processing.
- 4. MPHI's Financial Analyst will fill the request and notify both the LHD and the TB Public Health Consultant when the gift cards and/or reimbursement check is mailed.
- 5. The LHD will reply to the email (previous step) to confirm receiving the items.

Form B: Reimbursement Requests Estimated to Cost More Than \$200

- 1. If you foresee a <u>reimbursement</u> that will cost more than \$200, please use **Form B** to first obtain approval from MDHHS before making the purchase. The form can be found <u>on the MDHHS</u> website, and an example of the completed form can be found here in this document.
- 2. Complete **Sections I-II** of **Form B** and faxor email to MHHS:

Attention: TB Public Health Consultant

Email:

Fax Number: 517-335-8263

If you chose to email, please **DO NOT** put identifying information on the form!

Initials or MDSS ID are fine to use

- 3. Once Form B is received the TB Public Health Consultant will:
 - a. Notify the LHD the request was received;
 - b. Obtain approval signature from the TB unit manager on **Section III** of **Form B**.
 - i. If the request is not approved the TB Public Health Consultant will contact you with a detailed explanation and suggestions for other acceptable options. See the Eligibility section in this document for more information.
 - c. Notify the LHD of decision.
- 4. The LHD can make the purchase once they receive approved **Form B**. Actual purchases or amounts paid should be as close as possible to the requested amount.
- 5. After purchase, the LHD should complete **Section IV** of **Form B**, attach the proof of purchase, and fax or email both to MDHHS:

Attention: TB Public Health Consultant

Email:

Fax Number: 517-335-8263

If you chose to email, please **DO NOT** put identifying information on the form!

Initials or MDSS ID are fine to use

- 6. Once Form B is received with the proof of purchase the TB Public Health Consultant will:
 - a. Notify the LHD of receipt;
 - b. Forward the request to the Financial Analyst at MPHI.
- 7. MPHI's Financial Analyst will fill the request and notify both the LHD and the TB Public Health Consultant when the reimbursement check is mailed.
- 8. The LHD will reply to the email (previous step) to confirm receiving the reimbursement check.

Example Form A: Any Gift Card Amount or Reimbursement Less Than \$200

1. Use this form if you are requesting any amount of gift cards or for reimbursements less than \$200.

For <u>reimbursements</u> (not gift cards) estimated to cost more than \$200 please complete Form B to obtain approval before expenses are incurred.

2. Complete Sections I-II of this form and either fax or email to MDHHS

Attention: TB Public Health Consultant

Email:

Fax: 517-335-8263

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Your Name: John	Doe	Da	te: 7/14/2016	
Local Health Dep	artment: Anywhere County	Health Department		
Mailing/shipping	Mailing/shipping address: 1234 Main Street, City, Michigan 12345			
Email address: jo	hndoe@MIcounty.gov	Ph	one: 123-456-789	00
Initials of person	receiving IEs: AB			
Number of people	e in this request:	BI 1 Active TB Di	sease Ot	her
Are you requesting	gan incentive or an enabler?	What's the difference?	☑ Incentive	☑ Enabler
Request Type:	☑ Gift Card	☑ Reimbursement (check)	

Reason for request (why are you requesting an incentive and/or enabler?)

This patient is disabled and cannot work. Upon visit to their home for DOT I noticed the patient did not have necessities, like toilet paper and a toothbrush. He also expressed a disinterest in continuing treatment, stating "What's the point?" In addition, the patient was dehydrated and weak. I purchased a few items from Meijer for his immediate use (requesting reimbursement) and am requesting Kroger gift cards to help pay for these items in the coming months to incentivize and enable him to continue his treatment.

SECTION II

Gift Cards:

Company	Amount	Value	Total Amount
Kroger	4	\$50	\$200.00
		TOTAL	\$200.00

Reimbursements Less Than \$200: (Remember to attach your proof of purchase)

Company	Details	Amount
Meijer	Toilet paper, toothbrush, Gatorade, snacks	\$15.50
	T	OTAL \$15.50

Signature of LHD Requestor: _	John Doe	Date:7/14/2017	

SECTION III: Approval	(completed by MDHHS or ☐ Approved	nly)	
Reason for Denial (if r	ecessary):		
MDHHS TB Program:			Date:

Example Form B: Reimbursements Estimated to Cost More Than \$200

1. Use this form if you are expecting a reimbursement to cost more than \$200.

For all gift cards and reimbursements less than \$200 please complete Form A.

2. Complete **Sections I-II** and either fax or email to MDHHS.

Attention: TB Public Health Consultant

Email:

Fax: 517-335-8263

- 3. MDHHS will complete **Section III** and return the form. **Section III** approval is confirmation that purchase(s) for reimbursement may be made.
- 3. After purchase, complete **Section IV** and fax to MDHHS (information above) with attached proof of purchase.

SECTION I

Your Name: John Doe		Date: 7/14/2016		
Local Health Department: Anywhere County Hea	ılth Department			
Mailing/Shipping Address: 1234 Main Street, City, Michigan 12345				
Email address: johndoe@MIcounty.gov Phone: 123-456-7890				
Initials of person receiving IEs: AB	Initials of person receiving IEs: AB			
Number of people in this request: LTBI	1 Active TB Disease	2 Other		
Are you requesting an incentive or an enabler?	□ Incentive	☑ Enabler		
Request Type:	☑ Reimbursement (check)			

Reason for request (justify your request based on need):

This person has AIDS and was recently diagnosed with active TB. She recently lost her job due to her being on home isolation. She has two children living at home with her and is having trouble feeding them with the limited money she has. She will start working at her Uncle's grocery store once she is released from home isolation (expected September), however she needs help paying rent for the months of July and August. I am requesting reimbursement for her rent, which is approximately \$750 per month, for three months.

SECTION II: Estimated Expenses

Company	Details	Estimated Amount
Apartment Rentals, Inc.	Rent for July, August, September 2017 (\$750 x 3)	\$2,250.00
	TOTAL	\$2,250.00

STOP! Section III must be completed and approved by MDHHS before you can proceed with your purchase

SECTION III: Approval (completed by MDHHS only)

Unit Manager's Approval:	D	ate:[□ Denied
Reason for Denial (if neces	ssary):		
	(penses (completed by LHD after MDHHS app	roval. Remember to att	tach proof
of purchase)			
Company	Details	Actual Amou	nt
		TOTAL	
		TOTAL	
Signature of LHD Reque	estor:	Date:	

Creating Your Own Guidelines

MDHHS encourages LHDs create their own guidelines for use of IEs with their TB patients, especially if your LHD uses county or personal funds to fulfill IEs.

- 1. Research possible incentives and enablers that would meet the needs of your target groups and motivate your TB patients. Make sure they are feasible for your program to provide. Consider your own resources as well as skills, programs, goods, and services that could be provided by community partners and local organizations. *Example:*
 - MDHHS TB unit has IE funds available for LHDs to use
 - Local taxi or interpreter services
 - Coupons and vouchers for a local or specialty store
- 2. Decide on an initial menu of incentives and enablers. Over time, this list is likely to be modified as new patient needs are identified, new partnerships are established, and the success and feasibility of various incentives and enablers is evaluated.
- 3. Identify sources for the selected incentives and enablers and make the necessary arrangements to have them available for distribution.

Example:

- If you regularly conduct contact investigations, it's handy to have small (\$5 \$10) gift cards available to incentivize testing.
- Some LHDs use small denomination gift cards to incentivize latent TB infection treatment completion, especially for courses lasting 6-9 months.
- Create a contract with a local taxi service for easy payment and reliability.
- 4. Establish guidelines and procedures for the disbursement of incentives and enablers, including:
 - a. <u>Eligibility</u>: Decide which types of patients qualify to receive IEs and under what circumstances.
 - b. <u>Authority</u>: Determine which staff members are authorized to disburse incentives or enablers and under what circumstances.
 - c. <u>Distribution</u>: Develop a distribution plan for the incentives and enablers. Identify how these items will be sent to the field.
 - d. <u>Tracking</u>: Develop a system and procedure for keeping track of incentives and enablers given to each TB patient and documenting decisions made about them
- 5. It may be useful to develop a letter of agreement or acknowledgment between the TB patient and the DOT worker. Some jurisdictions have successfully used these as a method of ensuring adherence to therapy. The DOT worker and the TB patient negotiate dates, places, and times for DOT services to be provided, and both sign a document stating such agreements. Included in the agreement could be language specifying what consequences may result if the client violates the terms of the contract, including withholding IEs.

- 6. Set up referral mechanisms to link TB patients with programs, goods, or services that your program cannot provide.
- 7. Plan for regular evaluation of your incentives and enablers so that their effectiveness can be assessed, problems can be identified and resolved, issues of funding and resources can be addressed, and modifications can be made as needed.

 Example:
 - Do you want to track information about IEs, for example, who receives them and what type of IE? MDHHS suggests you track all IEs used, even if they were purchased with personal money.
 - Do you want to report this information as part of an annual assessment of your program?

Abbreviations

AFB: Acid fast bacilli

BAL: Bronchoalveolar lavage DOT: Direct observed therapy IEs: Incentives and enablers LHD: Local health department

MDHHS: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

MDR-TB: Multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis MPHI: Michigan Public Health Institute

TB: Tuberculosis

Glossary

Enabler: Items to help TB patients to overcome barriers to completing their TB treatment.

Form A: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services TB Incentives & Enablers Request Form: Gift Cards & Reimbursements Less Than \$200. Form used to request all gift cards (regardless of total sum) and any reimbursement that costs less than \$200.

Form B: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services TB Incentives & Enablers Request Form: Reimbursements Estimated to Cost More Than \$200. Form used to request reimbursement for a purchase estimated to cost more than \$200; use the same form for submitting the reimbursement request after MDHHS approval.

Incentive: Small reward to encourage TB patients to complete TB treatment by motivating them with something they want or need.

Proof of Purchase: Approved proofs of purchase include checks written by the LHD, invoices, and receipts with date of purchase, total amount paid (including tax), and payee name. Proof of purchase must be submitted with each reimbursement request.

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